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UNUSUAL DISPOSITION OF NORTH VIETNAMESE LOGISTICS VESSELS
HAIPHONG, NORTH VIETNAM
2052N 10642E

1. SIGNIFICANCE:

THIS BRIEFING BOARD DEPICTS AN UNUSUAL DISPOSITION OF NORTH VIETNAM'S LOGISTICS VESSELS IN THE HAIPHONG AREA.


2. LOCATION:

HAIPHONG PORT AND ANCHORAGES, NORTH VIETNAM.

3. BACKGROUND:

FREQUENT PHOTO COVERAGE OF HAIPHONG HAS REVEALED LOCATIONS GENERALLY USED FOR THE MOORING OF NORTH VIETNAMESE NAVAL LOGISTICS VESSELS AND MERCHANT SHIPS. SUBSEQUENT TO THE 1 NOVEMBER 1968 BOMBING HALT, THE NORTH VIETNAM MERCHANT SHIPS WHEN NOT INVOLVED IN RESUPPLY TO THE SOUTH WERE USUALLY LOCATED IN THE VICINITY OF THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE WHARVES. NAVAL LOGISTICS VESSELS (AND OTHER NAVAL CRAFT) WERE GENERALLY OBSERVED NESTED NEAR THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE WHARVES, THE NAVAL BASE, FISHING PIER, MARINE HOSPITAL WHARF, AND AT DANCETTE SHIP REPAIR YARD.

4. MISSION READOUT:

LOW LEVEL DRONE PHOTOGRAPHY OF EARLY  REVEALS THAT THE NORMAL MOORING AREAS FOR NORTH VIETNAMESE MERCHANT SHIPS AND NAVAL LOGISTICS VESSELS

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(AND OTHER NAVAL CRAFT) ARE NOT BEING FULLY USED. NORTH VIETNAMESE LOGISTICS VESSELS ON THE CONTRARY, ARE FOR THE MOST PART DISPERSED IN UNUSUAL LOCATIONS.

[REDACTED] REVEALS 12 NAVAL VESSELS DISPERSED ALONG A 3 KM AREA OF THE CUA CAM. THESE VESSELS INCLUDE 1 SL-2, 1 SL-4, 3 SL-3/4, 4 WUHU YAK, 1 SWATOW PGM (STRIPPED), 1 T-4 LCM (ARMED) AND ONE UNIDENTIFIED YP.

[REDACTED] REVEALS FOUR (ONE NOT SHOWN ON GRAPHIC) OF NORTH VIETNAM'S EIGHT MERSHIPS AT AN UNUSUAL LOCATION, THE TANKER ANCHORAGE. THE VESSELS ARE MOORED AMONG THREE INTERNATIONAL SHIPPING VESSELS (ONE NOT SHOWN ON GRAPHIC). THE NORTH VIETNAMESE MERSHIPS ARE THE CARGO VESSELS BEN THUY AND HOA BINH, AS WELL AS THE TANKERS HAIPHONG AND CUU LONG. ALSO IN THE TANKER ANCHORAGE ARE FOUR NAVAL LOGISTICS VESSELS: 2 SL-4, 1 SL-6, AND 1 SL-3/4 (THIS IS THE FIRST TIME THAT THE SL TYPE VESSELS HAVE BEEN OBSERVED AT ANCHOR IN THE TANKER ANCHORAGE.)

VESSELS OBSERVED IN THE NORMAL MOORING AREAS, ON [REDACTED] INCLUDE FIVE TO TEN SL-1s.

5. REMARKS:

THE UNUSUAL DISPOSITION OF THESE NORTH VIETNAMESE NAVAL VESSELS AND MERSHIPS FITS INTO A RECENTLY NOTED PATTERN IN WHICH 5 SL-1s HAVE BEEN DISPERSED TO AN AREA 13.5 NM NW OF HAIPHONG, AN INCREASE IN BARGES MOORED AT HANOI PORT HAS OCCURRED, AND THERE HAS BEEN AN APPARENT DECREASE IN THE NUMBER OF BARGES IN THE HAIPHONG AREA.

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